

MAGI #04227757.2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Provident Savings Bank of Baltimore

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

236-240 North Howard Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Provident Savings Bank of Baltimore

STREET & NUMBER

236-240 North Howard Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Records Office, Room 601

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey, C.B.D. West

DATE

March 1976

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

CITY, TOWN

City of Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (Ext)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (Interior)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Provident Savings Bank of Baltimore, located at the Southwest corner of North Howard and West Saratoga Streets, was built in 1903-04 to the designs of Joseph Evans Sperry and York and Sawyer. The Second Renaissance Revival Structure is four stories tall, with a high parapet wall surrounding a low hipped roof. This roof, dating from 1949 alterations to the interior (see below) replaced an original round glass dome that lighted the open banking space below. The two one-bay street facades are similar in design, with a smooth-faced coursed pink granite podium below a pulvinated course of rusticated granite and a smooth-faced string course supporting 22 pulvinated courses of rusticated granite blocks. These wall blocks have tooled, recessed margins and are laid in an exaggerated quoin-like pattern. Both facades have large central full height compound arched openings, the arch defined by radiating dressed voussoirs with double keystone, the intrado gently coved. The main entrance, facing North Howard Street, has a two-story portico supported by two Tuscan columns resting on square pedestals, with the capitals decorated with floriated grotesques, the bases unenriched. The entablature of the portico consists of two stepped fascia panels below a carved oak leaf cushioned frieze with flat sign board, and a dentil cornice with flat fascia and crown mold. The cornice is surmounted by a low three-part pediment. The details of the portico are repeated at the wall surface, with the columns connected to engaged pilasters with a heavy cove complimenting the coved intrado of the arch. The entrance doors, resting on a flight of four low granite stairs, are c. 1949 extruded aluminum replacements in the original opening. This opening has bronze engaged fluted pilasters with Doric capitals, supporting an unenriched frieze. A tall transom, with five lights provided with cast bronze screens sits atop the trabeated entrance, all of which is framed with an elaborate carved granite architrave composed of two vertical rows of guilloches with stylized anthemion between caryatids, enclosed with rope moldings.

The tympanium of the arch is filled by a bronze framed window unit, two rows high, five bays wide. The fixed sash in each bay has six lights, arranged 2/2/2, with windows in the outer bays of the upper row reduced in number in relation to the curve of the arch. The entire window unit is framed with a cast bronze band incorporating floral and circular motifs in its design. The same details are repeated in the north facade, except that there are three rows of 2/2/2 fixed sash over a five bay wide solid spandrel which is decorated with an exceptional cast iron screen of floral, guilloches and anthemion design.

A heavy overhanging granite cornice surrounds the north and east facades, supported on each wall by 13 massive scroll consoles. The consoles are undecorated at the top panel and sides, but are enriched with a fish-scale pattern in the curve of the "S". The consoles rest on a panelled architrave, a series of three stepped fascias, and are tied together with a heavy torus molded taenia.

The spaces between the consoles are filled with round medallions in bas-relief. The cornice itself is made up of a flat corona, torus mold and a heavy ovolo. The three section parapet wall has end bays reflecting the proportions of the exaggerated corner quoins, with the central part consisting of two rows of open balustrades of square urns.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

A rear wing is one-story in height, consisting of five courses of rusticated pink granite resting on a smooth base course. Four bays wide, the wing has single light fixed sash with a solid panel in place of a transom, all framed in extruded bronze, in the first three bays, and a service door with transom in the west end bay. The windows are protected with elaborate wrought iron security bars. The heavy molded granite cornice has a stepped fascia, cyma-reversa bed mold and a flat corona, and is surmounted by an 18" parapet wall that encloses the flat roof. The roof has two gabled glass skylights, hidden from view at ground level. A heavy cast and wrought iron handrail surrounds an open lightwell serving the four bay wide basement office space.

Elaborate cast bronze lighting fixtures with five urns, resting on granite pedestals the project from the wall surface to form squares, flank the North Howard Street entrance to the bank.

Originally, the interior of the structure was a single, open space with a mezzanine cantilevered from all four interior walls at what is today the second floor level. This banking space was lit by a large circular glass dome, 83 feet above the first floor. The dome and mezzanine were removed in 1949 for the insertion of the present day second, third and fourth floors (James R. Edmunds, Jr., Architect). The existing low hipped roof was added at this time. The entire interior, all floors including the basement and rear wing, was re-finished in 1953 and again in c. 1972, with the result that nothing of the original interior fabric remains.

The Provident Savings Bank replaced a four story masonry structure used for the Gibbons Hotel.

SIGNIFICANCE

8-2277

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1903-04, 1949-53

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph E. Sperry/ York & Sawyer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Provident Savings Bank of Baltimore is probably the finest example of the Second Renaissance Revival style in the city. Designed to resemble Italian Renaissance palaces, this massive structure bears a remarkable similarity to Dahlgren Hall at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, designed by Ernest Flagg in 1899 and completed in 1903, the year that the bank building began construction. Flagg's building design is thought to be directly influenced by designs presented at the Paris Exposition of 1889, and while Dahlgren Hall is larger, many of the details, including the coved compound central arch are repeated almost stone for stone in the Provident Savings Bank.

The Provident Savings Bank was chartered in 1886 to encourage "thrift and providence" among wage earners whose small deposits had not been sought after by the existing savings banks. Six branch offices were opened in June and July of 1886 while the first central office was established at 40' East Baltimore Street in April, 1887. In July, 1888, the central office was moved to the corner of Howard and Franklin Streets, into a new building built especially for the Provident. As the bank grew larger, it was recognized that the central office would soon be too small and a search was undertaken for a suitable corner lot in the downtown area. The search ended in 1901 with the purchase of the old Saratoga (Gibbons) Hotel lot on the southwest corner of Howard and Saratoga Streets. The present structure, begun in 1903 and completed in 1904, was designed by Joseph Evans Sperry, one of Baltimore's most important and prolific architects, who had planned successful branch buildings for the Provident, and by York and Sawyer of New York, architects who had designed a number of major bank buildings, including the Riggs Bank of Washington. The central office has remained at its present location for 74 years although the building's interior was altered in 1949 and 1953 to provide additional space.

1. Dorsey, John and James D. Dilts, A Guide to Baltimore Architecture, Cambridge, (Md), 1973
2. Baltimore Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation, The CBD West, an Historical and Architectural Perspective, Baltimore, 1976

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.12

QUADRANGLE NAME Baltimore East QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

El

F | | | | | | | | | |

Glucose

[illegible]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Russell Wright, A.I.A., A.I.P., Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Department of Housing and Community Development

DATE _____

8/78

STREET & NUMBER

222 East Saratoga Street, Springfield, MA 01105 396-4265

TELEPHONE

396-4265

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE _____

NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

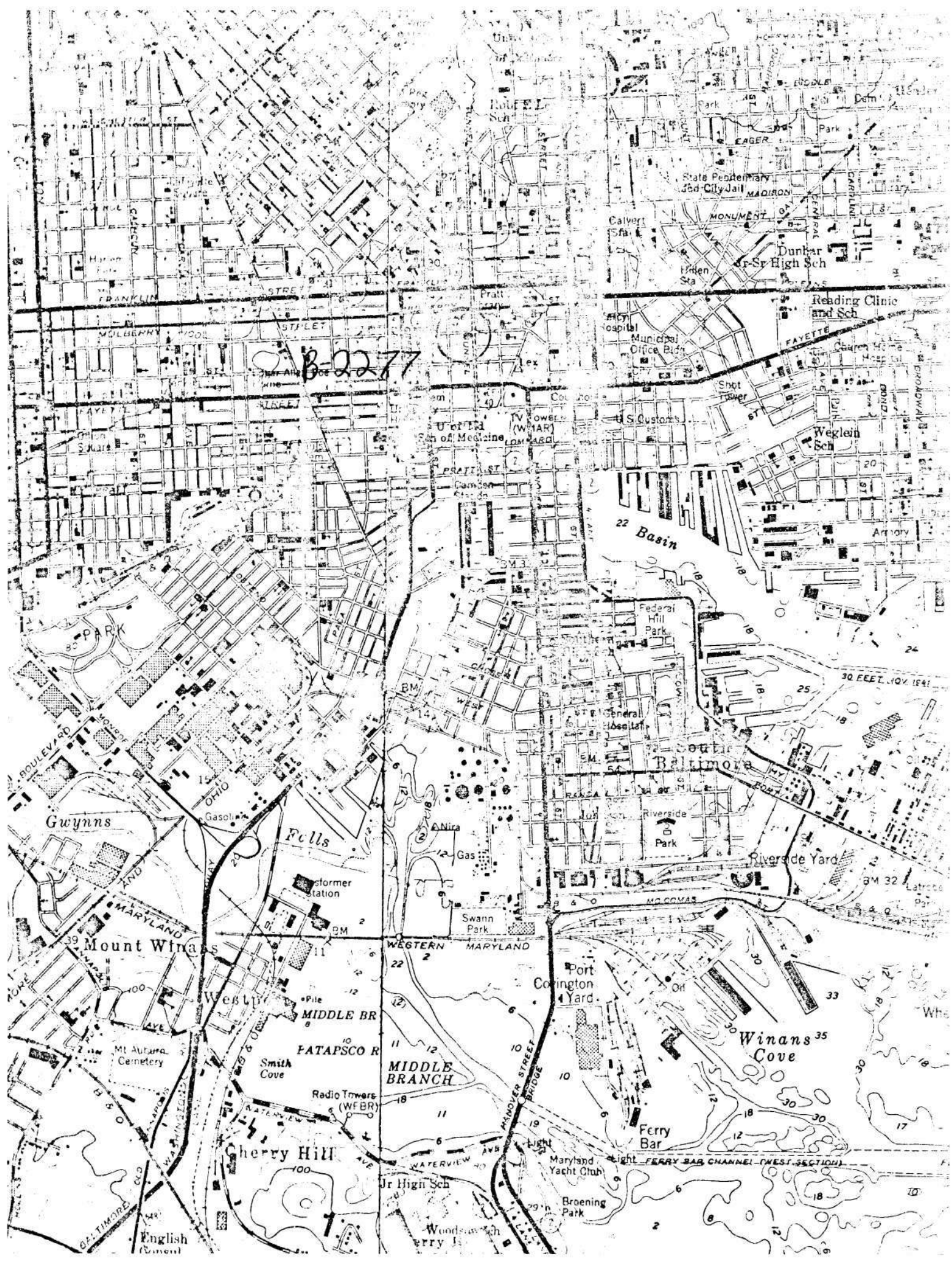
DATE _____

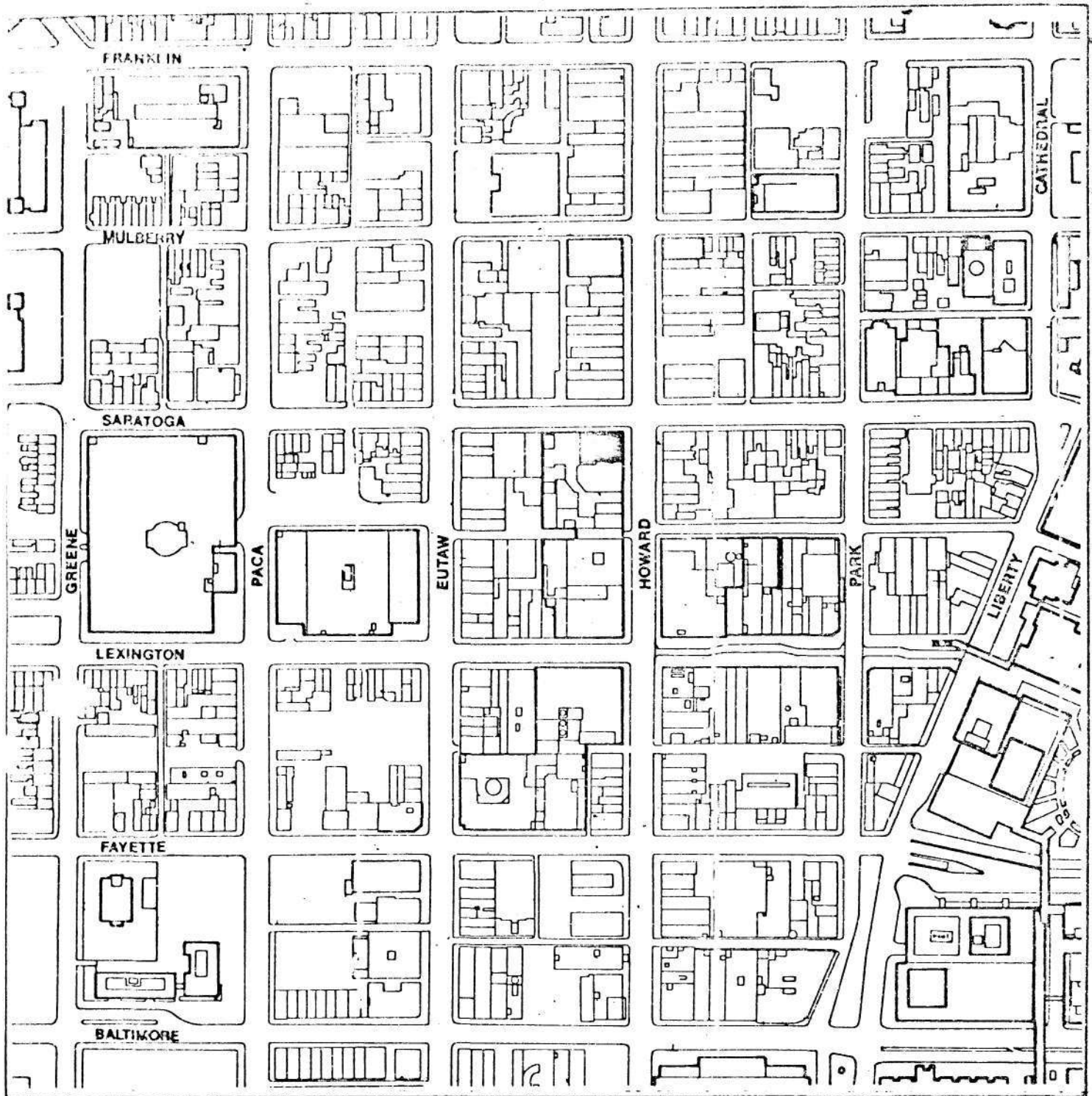
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

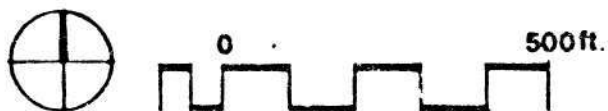
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION





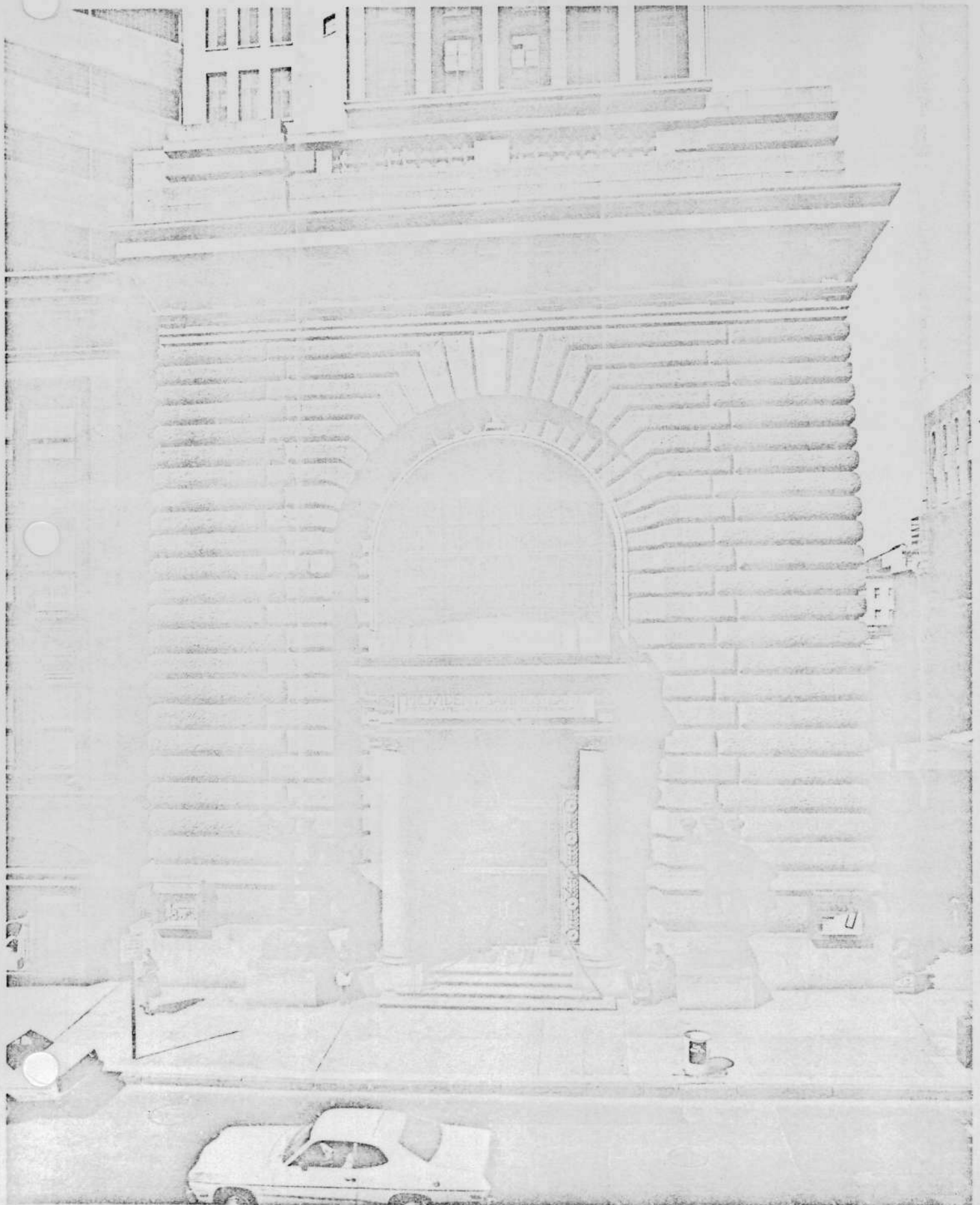
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:
BALTIMORE'S JOINT DEVELOPMENT/
VALUE CAPTURE PROGRAM:
BALTIMORE GARDENS**

FIGURE B-2277
PROVIDENT SAVINGS BANK
236-40 North Howard



NOV. 1977

SOURCE: DEPT. OF PLANNING



B-2277

MAG#0422775712596

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON: Provident's Savings Bank					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: 236-240 N. Howard Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY:		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Comments _____					
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Records Office Room 601					
STREET AND NUMBER: Baltimore City Courthouse					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland		21202
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900					
CITY OR TOWN: 26 South Calvert St. Baltimore, Md. 21202			STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is 4 stories high with smooth granite foundation walls and granite building walls of Cyclopean rustication. The Howard Street facade is one bay wide with a centered portico of the Tuscan order framing flat bronze double doors that surmount four granite steps. A flat, five light transom surmounts the doors. The portico is surmounted by a two story high, full arched window with 58 full lights. This organization of portico, doors, and arched window is gently recessed into the east facade's central, shallow arch of rusticated stone jointing with modified quoins.

The north or Saratoga Street facade is one bay wide and punctuated by a three story high full arched window with 64 full lights. The window is centered in the facade wall in a shallow arch defined by rusticated stone jointing with modified quoining.

The cornice projects vigorously and supported by 13 decorative brackets on either side of the building. There are plain medallions between the brackets. The granite parapet wall is articulated with centered balustrades.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1903 to the design of Joseph Evans Sperry and York & Sawyer. Originally a dome was visible from the street, but 1949-1953 renovations by James R. Edmonds left the dome out of view from the street level. However, the building is probably the best example of the Second Renaissance Revival style in the Baltimore area. It was built to resemble an Italian palaces of the late Renaissance. The details, if they can be called such, are impressive, from the massive ironwork on the arched windows to the impressive lamps emphasizing the main entrance. The sheer massiveness of the building to a great degree created by the pronounced rustication of the walls-anchors that corner of the block and stylistically links the architectural development of Howard Street to yet another style.

Completed 1904 Joseph Evans Sperry and York and Sawyer, Architects

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Planning Assistants

ORGANIZATION

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

DATE

1976

STREET AND NUMBER

Room 900

CITY OR TOWN:

26 South Calvert St.
Baltimore, Md. 21202

STATE

12.

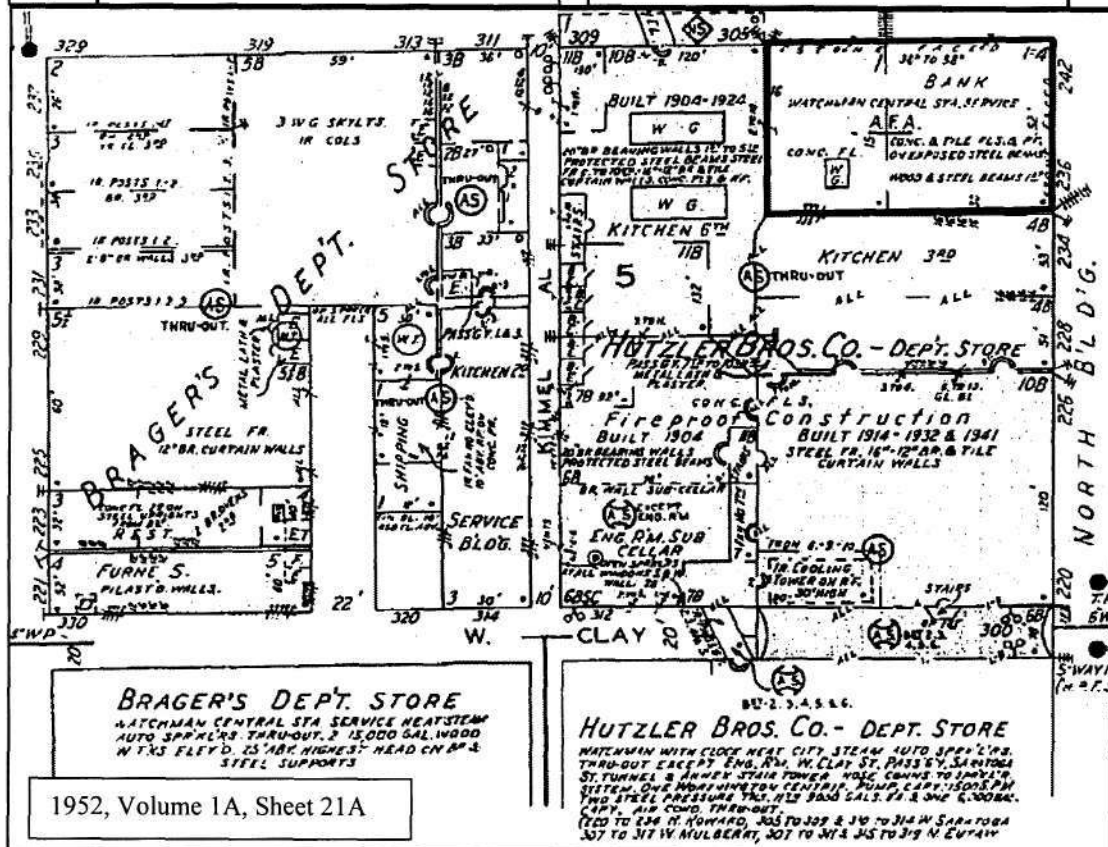
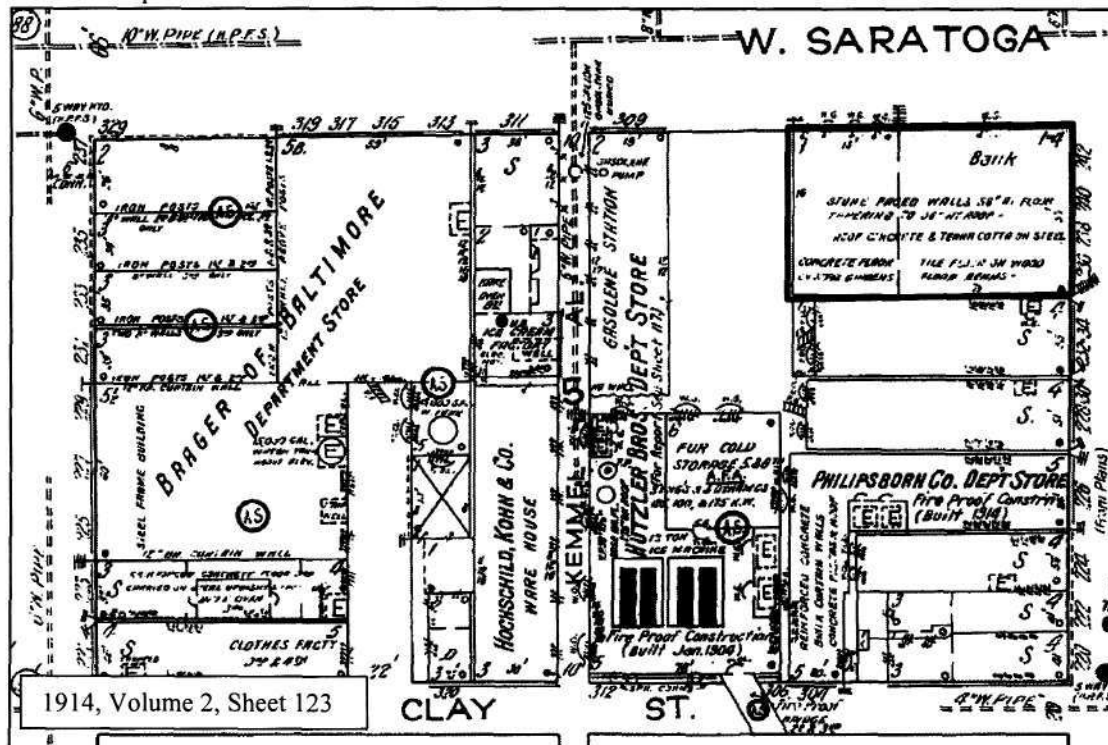
State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

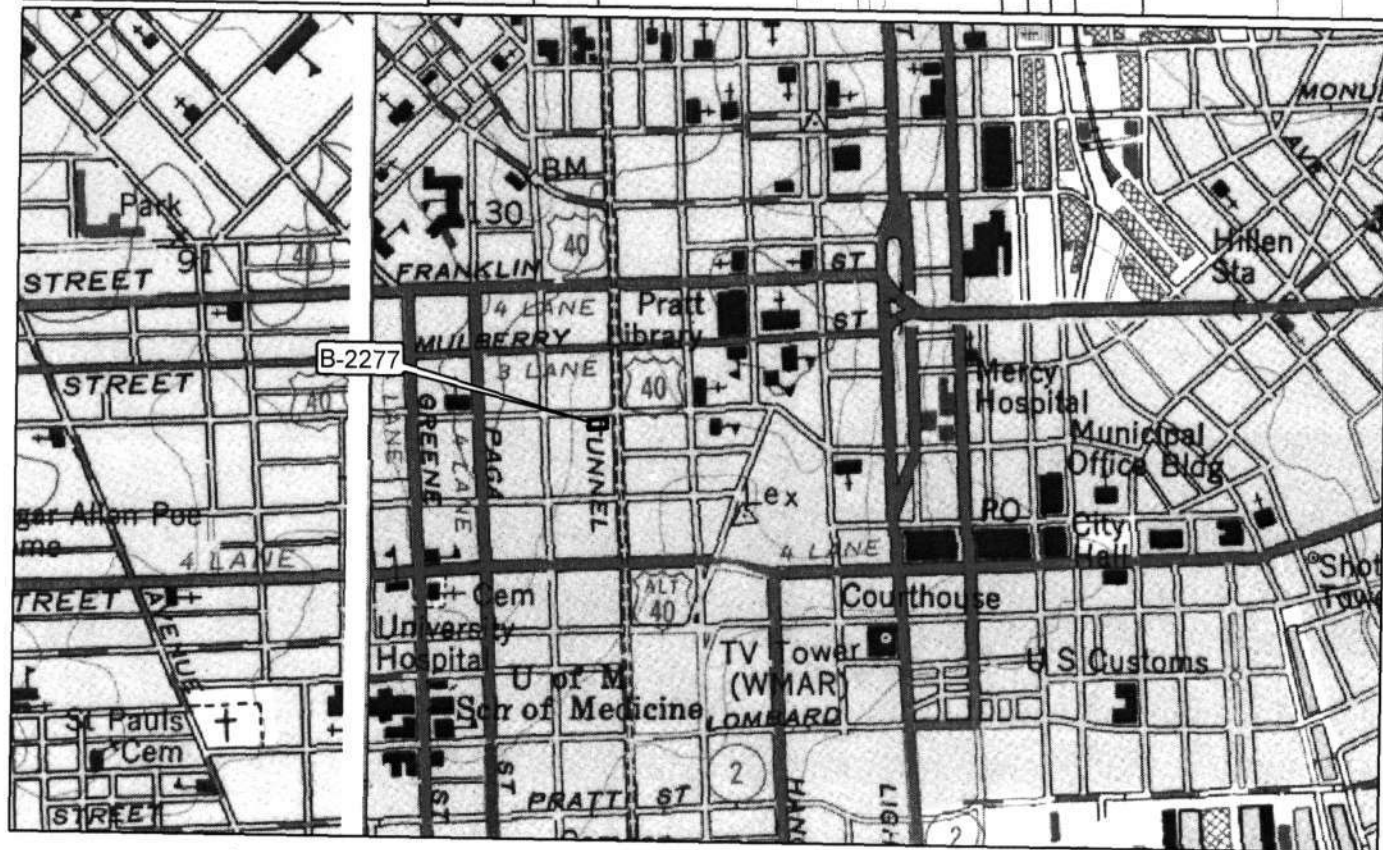
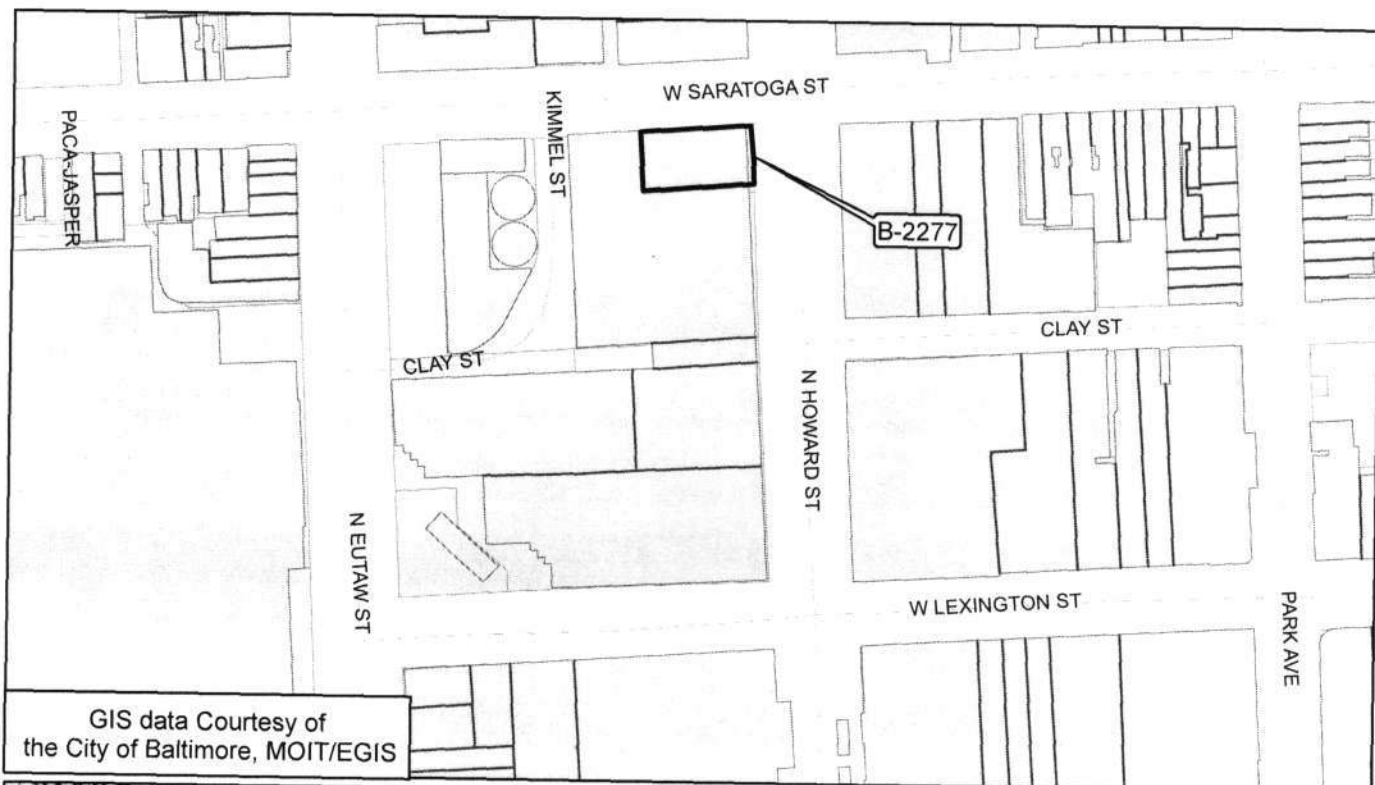
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

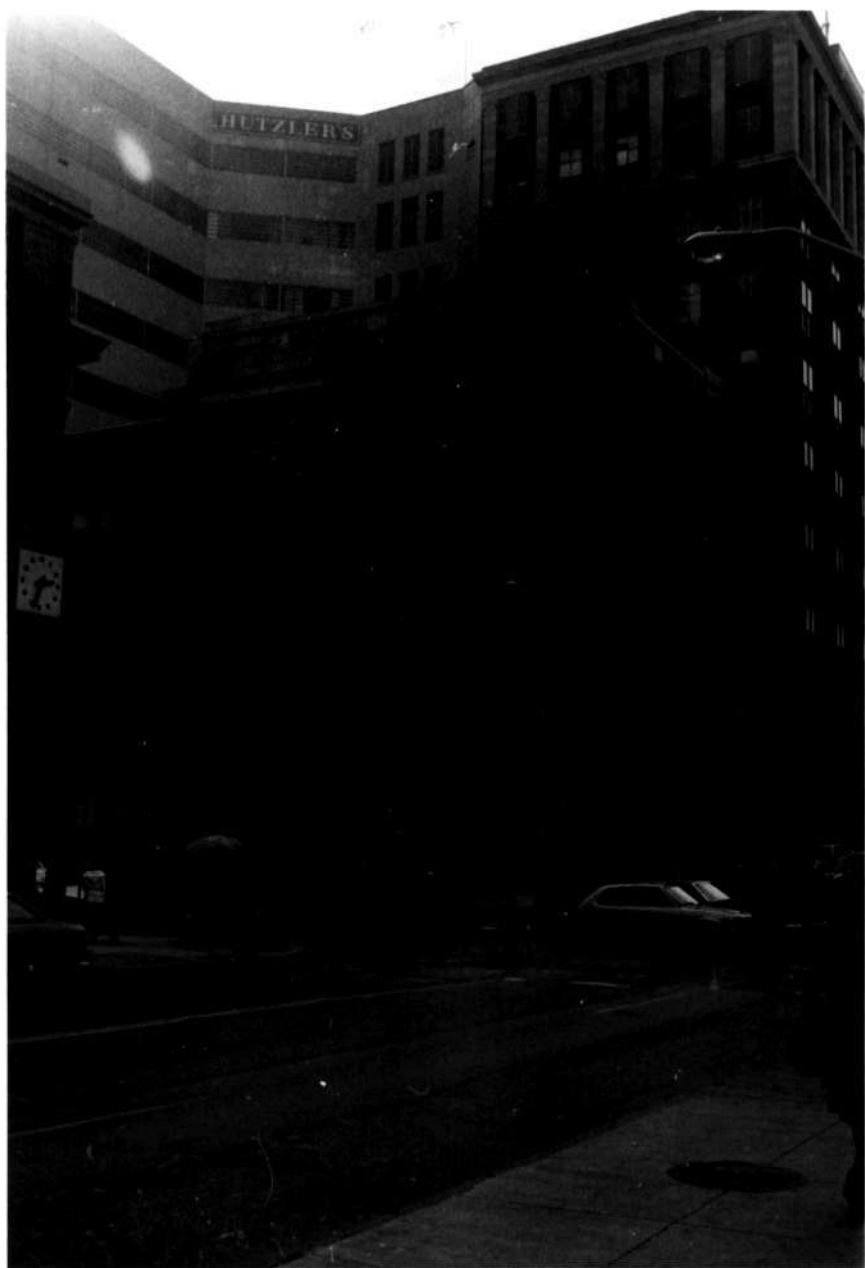
Signature

B-2277
 Provident Savings Bank
 236-240 N. Howard Street
 Sanborn Maps



B-2277
Provident Savings Bank
236-240 N. Howard Street
Block 0596, Lot 026
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





6-2277 236-240 N. Howard

Neg #

B. Pencils

2/76

Black
596